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BOOK REVIEWS

War and the Private Citizen. Studies in International Law. By A. Pearce Higgins. London. P. S. King & Son. 1912. pp. 200. Price \$5.00 net.

A law book as interesting and absorbing as a novel is indeed a rarity. Mr. Higgins has accomplished this remarkable feat in a compact little book, which can be read at a sitting, thoroughly enjoyable, and yet thoroughly instructive.

War, in the popular mind, is considered, as stated by Lord Brougham, to be "not the concern of individuals but of governments." This dictum the author proves is but a partial truth; for in spite of advances in civilization and the mitigation of monstrous barbarities, war is still hell, not only for the combatants, but also for the private citizen. He is not exempt by the rules of warfare from its horrors. In the bombardment of defended towns, in effective blockades, and in the territorial occupation of land by the enemy, the private citizen is faced with great dangers and subject to great deprivations. And in fact the strategic policy in war is to bring pressure to bear on the private citizen, and, in the words of General Sherman, "to cause the inhabitants so much suffering that they must long for peace." A brief summary of the author is worth quoting: "Forced labor may be requisitioned, private property of every description can be commandeered for the use of the invading army, foodstuffs of all sorts compulsorily purchased, and several of the most powerful military States still insist on retaining the right—one of the most objectionable of the usages of war—of forcing non-combatant individuals to act as guides to the army of invasion." Therefore, a clear appreciation of the laws of war and its direct consequences will tend to bring sanity to the inflamed mind, and stability to the impulsive and excitable citizen. War is the modern sacrifice to false gods. Let the private citizen remember that he too is sacrificed.

Besides this warning, Mr. Higgins discusses in the chapters following other questions of interest, if not of such importance.

In Chapter II he gives a brief account of the treatment of Hospital ships, the provisions made by belligerents for the safety of persons taken from prizes which they destroy, and the right of belligerents to destroy neutral and hostile merchant-ships.

The third chapter considers the position of war-correspondents in naval warfare. No international convention has dealt with his legal status, and consequently it is still uncertain. The case of the correspondent of the *Times* during the Russo-Japanese War is cited; it shows that the invention of wireless telegraphy makes imperative a stricter control of their activities, and the author approves of the regulations made by the Japanese in 1904. He further advocates that the principle of rules of war on land, as applied to Red Cross assistance and to newspapermen attached to land forces, be adopted, with modifications, for naval correspondents.

In the last two chapters, there is an impartial examination of disputed questions, the conversion of merchant-ships into war-ships, and the opening by belligerents to neutrals of closed trade. The conclusion, in favor of the compromise offered in Italy, that no merchant-ship should be converted on the high seas except when they had left their national ports before the outbreak of war, is certainly sound, and in the interest of peace. In support of this contention he adds the weighty authority of Story and Mahan, and a quotation from Kent that leans very strongly in that direction.

May all peace loving people, strenuous warriors and lawyers read this book.

F. R. S.

Auditing, Theory and Practice. By Robert H. Montgomery, C.P.A. The Ronald Press Company, New York. 1912.

This timely work upon a subject of great importance, written by one of the leaders in his profession, will become the standard text book upon this subject in this country.